Amendments to the Specification:

Summary of the Invention

Please replace page 2, paragraph 5, lines 20-21 with the following amended paragraph:

The amorphous form of the salt of esomeprazole may have the X-ray diffraction pattern of a plain halo, which demonstrates the amorphous nature of the product ~~Fig. 1 and the IR spectra of Fig. 2~~.

Please replace page 2, paragraph 8, lines 30-31 with the following amended paragraph:

The amorphous form of the salt of esomeprazole may have the X-ray diffraction pattern of a plain halo, which demonstrates the amorphous nature of the product ~~Fig. 1 and the IR spectra of Fig. 2~~.

Please replace page 3, paragraph 8, lines 27-28 with the following amended paragraph:

The process may produce the amorphous form of the salt of esomeprazole having the X-ray diffraction pattern of a plain halo, which demonstrates the amorphous nature of the product ~~Fig. 1 and the IR spectra of Fig. 2.~~

Description of the Drawings

Page 4 please delete paragraphs 1 and 2, lines 1-4.

~~Description of the Drawings~~

~~Figure 1 is an x-ray powder diffraction pattern of amorphous esomeprazole.~~

~~Figure 2 is an infra-red spectra in KBr of amorphous esomeprazole magnesium prepared as described herein.~~

Detailed Description of the Invention

Please replace page 4, paragraph 1, lines 5-18 with the following amended paragraph:

The mentors have found a new form of esomeprazole salts, the amorphous form and, in particular, the amorphous esomeprazole magnesium salt. The new form is characterized by its X-ray powder diffraction pattern, which is described below as having a plain halo which demonstrates the amorphous nature of the product ~~and IR spectra as shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively~~. The inventors also have developed a process for the preparation of the amorphous form of esomeprazole salts, including the esomeprazole magnesium salt, by recovering the amorphous esomeprazole salt from a solution thereof in a suitable solvent by spray drying. The resulting amorphous form of salts of esomeprazole include, for example, Na, Mg, Li, K, Ca, and $N(R)_4$, where R is hydrogen or an alkyl group with 1-4 carbon atoms. The inventors also have developed pharmaceutical compositions that contain the amorphous form of the esomeprazole salts, including the esomeprazole magnesium salt, in admixture with one or more solid or liquid pharmaceutical diluents, carriers, and/or excipients. These pharmaceutical compositions may be used for the treatment of gastric acid-related diseases by inhibition of gastric acid secretion.

Please replace page 6, paragraph 4, lines 23-32 with the following amended paragraph:

Esomeprazole magnesium trihydrate (200 g) was dissolved in a mixture of dichloromethane (1200 ml) and methanol (1200 ml) at 25-30°C. Any undissolved material was filtered off and triethylamine (2 ml) was added to the filtrate. The clear solution thus obtained was spray dried in a mini spray dryer (Model Buchi – 190) with an inlet temperature of 65-68°C and an outlet temperature of 22-42°C in 2 to 3 hours. The solid was further dried under vacuum at 60-65°C for 14 to 15 hours to yield 120 g of esomeprazole magnesium of amorphous form. X-ray powder diffraction pattern showed a plain halo, which demonstrates the amorphous nature of the product ~~(Figure I)~~. The following physical characteristics were obtained: Purity 99.77% by HPLC, Chiral purity 99.90 % by HPLC, SOR 145.9°, Mg content 3.4.